

Co-ops: Focused on Service, Not Profits



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO DEBRA COLE

NOW, AS ALWAYS, IT'S A GOOD TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF AN ELECTRIC cooperative.

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, the members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Texas electricity customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to faraway stockholders who demand a healthy profit every quarter, local

members call the shots for electric co-ops.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead, we keep rates as low as we can while providing high-quality service.

HILCO Electric Cooperative invests money earned in excess of operating costs back into the co-op and eventually returns the excess, known as margins, to members in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your co-op's directors, who are fellow mem-

bers, have only one thing in mind: keeping the lights on while keeping costs down. That is what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change its leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how eight decades ago, rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then. 4707731900

Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the members, have. You can stop by, give us a call or send us an email and be assured that someone here is listening.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops have a firsthand understanding of the people they serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same community pride because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

And that's the cooperative difference.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joseph Tedesco, President, *District 4*
- Bill Allen, Vice President, *District 5*
- Janet Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*
- Leroy Huff, *District 1*
- Margaret Hill, *District 2*
- George Thiess, *District 6*
- Ron Roberts, *District 3*

Operating in Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson and McLennan counties

GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Debra A. Cole

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Itasca Headquarters

115 E. Main St. • P.O. Box 127
Itasca, Texas 76055
(254) 687-2331, 1-800-338-6425

Midlothian

300A Silken Crossing, Midlothian 76065
(972) 723-2900

Whitney

4581 FM 933, Whitney 76692
(254) 694-5237, 1-888-850-6551

Elm Mott

298 S. Connally Drive, Elm Mott 76640



CONTACT US

For information during office hours and outages after hours:

CALL US

(254) 687-2331 local or
1-800-338-6425 toll-free

EMAIL

hilco@hilco.coop

FIND US ON THE WEB

hilco.coop



Love Glows Here

Rock out with the lights out at our

“Let’s Glow Crazy” Neon Glow Dance Party and Family Night Event!

February 9, 6-10 p.m.

HILCO Civic & Event Center
1000 S. Files St., Itasca 76055

Admission includes spaghetti dinner and three glow-in-the-dark items. Face painting will be available for an extra charge. Wear white or neon colors. Glow-in-the-dark items will be for sale or you can bring your own.

Admission: \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.
Contact 1-888-321-8708 for more info.



Children under 13 **must** be accompanied by an adult.

February Bulletin

February 1

**Waxahachie
Daddy Daughter Dance**

Waxahachie Civic Center, 6-9 p.m.
Tickets can be picked up at the center and will not be sold the night of the dance.
(469) 309-4040

February 7

**Whitney
Whitney Chamber of Commerce
Banquet**

HILCO Civic & Event Center, 6 p.m.
1000 S. Files St., Itasca,

February 28

**Hillsboro
Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce
Banquet**

Hill County Exhibits Building, 5:30-8 p.m.

BILLING SCHEDULE

Payments are due by close of business at 5 p.m. on the due date.

CYCLE 1

Billing Date February 5
Due Date February 21

CYCLE 2

Billing Date February 12
Due Date February 28

CYCLE 3

Billing Date February 19
Due Date March 7

CYCLE 13

Billing Date February 20
Due Date March 7

CYCLE 4

Billing Date February 26
Due Date March 14

Win a \$50 Bill Credit!

As you’re reading your *Texas Co-op Power*, look for the hidden account numbers in pages 18-25. If you spot YOUR account number, call us before the end of February—you have won a \$50 credit on your HILCO electric bill!



(254) 687-2331
or
1-800-338-6425



Power Tip

Reduce drafts by locking all your windows. A tighter seal is formed when the windows are locked.

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Turning Lives Around

Your Operation Round Up dollars help others



SADIEUGRA | ISTOCK.COM



Third-Quarter Operation Round Up Recipients
White Bluff Volunteer Fire Department, Dennis Robinson
Common Ground Ministries, Jim Jordan
Waxahachie Care Services, Linda Nalzer and Kim Holman
Waxahachie Senior Citizens Center, Jeanee Smiles
Isaiah's Place, Diane Frederickson

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001, HILCO ELECTRIC'S OPERATION Round Up has been turning lives around thanks to members who volunteer to round up their monthly electric bills to help others. The pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters members donate each month typically add up to about \$6 a year per member—but combine to make a big impact in our community.

The program has awarded 694 grants totaling \$790,390 since 2001, with donations supporting a wide variety of nonprofit organizations in HILCO Electric's service area. Funding has provided wheelchair ramps for the elderly and disabled, clothing and necessities for children in protective custody, and assistance to volunteer fire departments.

While all foundation grants go to worthy causes selected by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, almost \$368,571 has gone to charitable organizations that meet the most dire of human needs, says HILCO General Manager Debbie Cole.

"These agencies work to provide meals and shelter for the homeless and healing for the abused," Cole said. "With assistance from HILCO EC members who donate through Operation Round Up, the ORU program is helping change lives, one at a time."



Ask The Expert

with **Felicia Guy**, Member Service Representative

How Can I Sign Up For Operation Round Up?

A: All HILCO Electric Cooperative members have the opportunity to join your other electric cooperative members in participating in Operation Round Up, a voluntary program in which we round up your residential electric bill each month to the nearest dollar amount to provide funding for community and charitable organizations in our service area.

If your monthly residential electric bill were \$67.43, for example, your bill would be rounded to \$68. You will never give more than 99 cents per month, and your total annual

contribution will average about \$6 per year. This doesn't sound like a lot of money, but with everyone participating, we can make a big difference for those in need.

To sign up, complete the form below and mail it in with your statement, or you can sign up electronically by visiting our website, hilco.coop, and selecting Community Programs under the Community tab.

If your organization would like more information about assistance from Operation Round Up, you may also visit the website above or contact our office at 1-800-338-6425.



The **POWER** of Change

Operation Round-Up® allows HILCO Electric Cooperative members to voluntarily round-up their electric bill's payment to the next whole dollar. The extra change from each bill's payment is donated to individuals, non-profit organizations, and other causes within the community.

SIGN UP TODAY!!

**OPERATION
ROUND UP**
THE POWER OF CHANGE



SIGN ME UP TODAY!

I AGREE TO SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED IN MY COMMUNITY BY HAVING MY ELECTRIC BILL ROUNDED UP TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR WITH OPERATION ROUND UP

For more information contact Brandi Shore
800-338-6425 ext 1120
bshore@hilco.coop

Please fill out and return this form with your HEC payment

Name	
Address	
Phone	
E-Mail	
Account No.	
Signature (required to enroll)	
Date	



Invest a Little, Save a Lot

SAVING ENERGY AT HOME CAN BE SIMPLE AND FREE: TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND TV WHEN you're not using them and lower the thermostat at night. But for a bigger impact on your electric bill, make a little bit more of an effort and invest a few bucks in energy-saving equipment.

Here's What To Buy

Whether your budget is large, small or somewhere in between, there are options.

LEDs. Next time a lightbulb burns out, replace it with an LED. They last for years and use their energy to produce only light, not heat. LED bulbs can screw right into the lamps and fixtures you already have. But when it's time to replace those fixtures, consider buying LED fixtures for even greater savings.

High-quality power strips. Plug your electronic equipment into power strips. Before you go to bed at night, switch off those strips. If energy-intensive appliances like computers, printers and game consoles are left plugged in after you turn them off, they still use energy—constantly. The only way to stop wasting that energy is to switch off the power.

New windows. If your old ones are single-paned, you might as well leave them open all winter. They're no match for the cold air, which easily seeps through. If replacing your windows is too big an expense for now, at least plug the leaks around your windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.

Window shades. Uncovered windows are great for views but terrible for your energy bill. Your heating bill will be

lower in the winter and your air conditioning costs will drop in the summer if you use blinds, curtains or awnings on windows. Uncover them on sunny winter days to let natural warmth into your home but close them up after dark, when the temperature dips.4705573701

Programmable thermostat. Everyone forgets to lower the heat once in a while. A programmable thermostat remembers for you. Program yours to lower at bedtime and then automatically warm up the house just before everyone wakes up. It can lower the heat again once everyone leaves for school and work in the morning and crank it back up before the family gets home in the afternoon.

The services of qualified technicians. Keeping your heating and cooling system clean and well-maintained will help it run more efficiently and extend its life. Likewise, keeping vents clear—including the one for your clothes dryer—will keep your family safer and your appliances running as they should.



KYOSHINO | ISTOCK.COM

Happy
Valentine's Day
February 14

Did You Know?

A spark of static electricity can measure up to 3,000 volts, while a typical lightning bolt packs 100 million volts.



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Kill a What?

EVER PRETENDED YOU KNEW WHAT AN ELECTRICIAN WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE or she told you what needed to be fixed? If so, or if you just want to expand your electrical vocabulary a bit, **here's a glossary of common electrical terms:**

Amperes, or amps, are a measure of the rate of flow of electricity—comparable to the flow of water through a hose. Fuses and circuit breakers are rated in amps to indicate the amount of electricity they can carry safely.

Circuit breakers and fuses are safety devices that automatically cut the flow of electricity when a circuit is overloaded.

In a fuse, an element melts when overloaded, stopping the flow of electricity. In a circuit breaker, a switch is tripped when it is overloaded. Whereas a fuse must be replaced, a circuit breaker can simply be reset after the cause of the overload has been corrected. 62060506

Circuit breakers and fuses are preset to appropriate amperage ratings, and it is important for the safety of your home or business that the amperage ratings in the main service panel be observed.

The electric service entrance normally consists of wires enclosed in conduit, a proper ground, your electric meter base and the main service panel—essentially the entire apparatus necessary to safely bring electricity into your home.

The main service panel (referred to as the “fuse box” in many homes) is a metal box that houses the circuit breakers or fuses. The main service panel serves as the point from which electricity is distributed to branch circuits throughout your home for appliance, equipment and lighting outlets.

Overload is when a circuit has carried a bigger flow of electricity than it can handle so the wires get too hot and unsafe, causing the circuit or breaker to trip.

Volts are a measure of electric force. Volts are the force behind the current,

or amps, flowing through a wire. Just as the amp can be compared to the amount of water flowing through a hose, the volt can be compared to the amount of pressure pushing that water.

Watt is a unit of power that does work electrically. Mathematically, the watt is the product of amperes multiplied by volts.

Watt-hour is the measurement of electrical energy used—measured as 1 watt of electricity used for one hour.

Kilowatt-hour is 1,000 watt-hours, abbreviated kWh. On electric bills, this indicates the amount of electric energy used. A 100-watt lamp operated for 10 hours (100 watts x 10 hours) uses 1,000 watt-hours—or 1 kWh.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



NOIRCHOCOLATE | ISTOCK.COM

Buffalo Chicken Spread

- 1 package (8 ounces) light cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons hot sauce
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 teaspoons Spanish paprika
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ cup finely diced cooked (or smoked) chicken
- ¼ cup sliced green onions
- ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped pickled jalapeño peppers, or more to taste
- ½ cup sour cream, or more as desired for texture

1. Thoroughly combine cream cheese, hot sauce, garlic powder, onion powder, paprika and ginger in a mixing bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment.
 2. Stir in the chicken, green onions, cheddar cheese and jalapeños. Stir in enough sour cream to reach desired consistency.
 3. Refrigerate at least 1 hour to allow the flavors to meld.
 4. Serve with sturdy chips, or spread the dip on extra-thin bread to make wonderful party sandwiches.
- Makes 7 quarts.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

SCHLITTERBAHN

WIN
SEASON
PASSES FOR
A FAMILY
OF 5



One lucky HILCO EC member will win!

Get Details and Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

Learn more about Schlitterbahn at schlitterbahn.com.



HILCO Electric Scholarship for Excellence

Application Deadline April 15, 2019

Do you aspire to go to college or vocational school?

If you're a high school senior with the strong desire to attend **college** or **trade school**, we can help. Every year we award scholarships to young men and women to help make their dreams a reality.

Who can apply?

Any graduating high school seniors who are dependents of HILCO members and meet the eligibility requirements listed on the application.

How to apply

Visit www.hilco.coop and download the application

For more information on our scholarship program call 800-338-6425 or email Kendra Markwardt at kmarkwardt@hilco.coop

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